UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/566/Add.17
29 November 1996
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Fifty-first session
Agenda item 77

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE

Report of the First Committee (Part XVIII)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Parfait-Serge ONANGA-ANYANGA (Gabon)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The First Committee considered agenda item 77 jointly with all the other items relating to disarmament and international security (for details, see A/51/566). For the documents before the Committee under item 77, see A/51/566, paragraph 3.

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/51/L.13

2. At the 15th meeting of the Committee, on 6 November 1996, the representative of Colombia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace" (A/C.1/51/L.13).

* The reports of the Committee on all the agenda items relating to disarmament and international security (items 60, 61 and 63-81) will be issued under the symbol A/51/566 and addenda.

3. At its 23rd meeting, on 14 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/51/L.13 by a recorded vote of 106 to 3, with 35 abstentions (see para. 4). The voting was as follows:[1]

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Kazakstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against: France, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

4. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

[1] The delegation of Zambia subsequently indicated that had it been present it would have voted in favour of the draft resolution, and the delegation of Andorra indicated that had it been present it would have abstained.

Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, contained in its resolution 2832 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971, and recalling also its resolution 50/76 of 12 December 1995 and other relevant resolutions,

Recalling also the report of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean held in July 1979,[2]

Emphasizing the need to foster consensual approaches, in particular given the prevailing international climate, which is conducive to the pursuit of such endeavours,

Noting the initiatives taken by countries in the region to promote cooperation, in particular economic cooperation, in the Indian Ocean area and the possible contribution of such initiatives to overall objectives of a zone of peace,

Convinced that the participation of all the permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean is important and would assist the progress of mutually beneficial dialogue to develop conditions of peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region,

Having considered the report of the Ad Hoc Committee,[3] including the statement by its Chairman on 8 July 1996, as contained in paragraph 8 of the report,

1. Takes note of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean;[3]

2. Reiterates its conviction that the participation of all the permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee is important and would greatly facilitate the development of a mutually beneficial dialogue to advance peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region;

3. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to examine its future work, taking into account, inter alia, the statement made by the Chairman on 8 July 1996, and to make recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

4. Also requests the Ad Hoc Committee to hold a session during 1997, of a duration of not more than three working days;

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[2] Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 45 and corrigendum (A/34/45 and Corr.1).

[3] Ibid., Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/51/29).

5. Further requests the Ad Hoc Committee to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to render all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee, including the provision of summary records;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace".